On Nearctos *and* Ælurina. By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. &c.

Dr. Theodore Gill, in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for this year, xiii. p. 15, with his usual industry as a compiler, points out that I overlooked two generic names that have been used by Gervais in his 'Hist. Nat. Mammifères,' ii. 1855. Though this book bears the date 1855, the second volume is not in the Museum Library, nor have I seen it in any other scientific or other library in this country; and being a history of Mammalia intended only for popular use, it is scarcely a place in which a zoologist would look for a new genus.

Dr. Gill states that M. Gervais has established the genus *Tremarctos* on account of a "supracondyloid foramen of the humerus, in which it is said to differ from all other Ursidæ;" but Dr. Gill points out that this foramen is found in other Ursidæ, and is doubtless exceptional and monstrous in them. I would ask, as only one skeleton of *Ursus ornatus* is known, may it not be an individuality in that specimen? Certainly it is a novelty in zoology to establish a genus on the existence or non-existence of a foramen in the humerus. My genus *Nearctos* is established on the peculiarity in the form of the lower jaw, shown to be a characteristic peculiarity by the examination of several skulls, a true zoological character.

In 1867, I established the genus *Viverriceps* for *Felis Bennettii* and several other Asiatic cats, because they have an elongate skull and a complete bony orbit. I referred *Felis planiceps* to this genus, because it had the same kind of skull—overlooking the peculiarity of its having a compressed double-rooted first false grinder in the upper jaw, which is figured by De Blainville in his 'Ostéographie,' and that Professor Gervais had proposed the genus *Ailurin* (*Ælurina*) for this animal in 1855; and Fitzinger called it *Ailurogale* in 1869.

I have examined four skulls of this species and find that the peculiarity of the false grinder is a permanent character of the species, and therefore propose, as Dr. Gill has done, to retain both *Ælurina* and *Viverriceps*.

The front upper grinder of *Viverriceps* is subcylindrical and one-rooted, and differs in size in different species. Thus, in *Viverriceps Bennettii* it is small and conical; in *Viverriceps Ellioti* it is very small and rudimentary; it is similar in *V. rubiginosa*, but very soon falls out.

On the Metamorphoses of the Acarina of the Families Sarcoptidæ *and* Gamasidæ. By M. Megnin.

In July and August of last year I communicated to the Academy two notes on the zoological position and physiological function of the little parasitic Acarina referred to the genera *Hypopus*, *Homopus*, and *Trichodactylus*, which, according to my observations, are merely the heteromorphous nymphs of certain Sarcoptidæ—among others, of the *Tyroglyphi*.

Since this period I have continued my investigations of the meta-